



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development
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VALUE-ADDED MEETINGS BEING HELD THROUGHOUT NEBRASKA *--USDA Rural Development Offers \$14.3 Million Nationwide for Value-Added Projects*

Lincoln, Neb., March 17, 2005—The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development will hold informational meetings across Nebraska to discuss the opportunities available to agricultural producers via the Value-Added Producer Grant program. This program has approximately \$14.3 million available nationwide for value-added ventures as announced in the March 7, 2005 Federal Register.

Scheduled meetings are:

Beatrice--March 17—1:30 p.m. CT Beatrice Public Library 100 N. 6th.

North Platte--March 22—9:00 a.m. CT McKinley Multipurpose Room, 301 West F St.

Kearney--March 23—9:00 a.m. CT Buffalo County Extension, 1400 East 34th St.

Sidney--March 23—1 p.m. MT Western Nebraska Community College campus; 371 College Drive. Co-sponsored by Western Nebraska Community College Sidney campus.

O'Neill--March 23—10:00 a.m. CT Tia Zia's, 121 S. 4th St.

Alliance--March 23—1:30 p.m. MT Alliance Public Library, 1750 Sweetwater Ave. Co-sponsored by Box Butte Development Corp.

Chadron--March 24—1:30 p.m. MT Upper Niobrara White Natural Resource District Office; 430 E. 2nd St. Co-sponsored by Upper Niobrara White NRD.

Wayne--March 24—1:30 p.m. CT Wayne State College Campus, Meadowlark Room-Student Center.

Thedford--March 24—1:00 p.m. CT Stub's Restaurant, E. Hwy 2.

York--March 29—9:00 a.m. CT York County 4-H Building, county fairgrounds 2400 Nebraska Avenue.

Valentine--March 30—10:00 a.m. CT Peppermill Restaurant, 112 N. Main.

Program is open to eligible agricultural producers, agricultural producer groups, agricultural cooperatives and majority controlled producer-based business ventures for use in value-added agriculture projects. Program purpose is to encourage independent producers of agricultural commodities to process their raw products into marketable, value-added goods, thereby increasing farm income. Up to \$150,000 in working capital funds or up to \$100,000 in planning grant funds are available. Applications are due May 6, 2005.

Please contact USDA Representatives Cyd Janssen-Chadron, (308) 432-4616 ext 4; Mary Gambill-Ainsworth (402) 387-2242 ext 4; Karissa Hagedorn-Kearney, (308) 237-3118 ext 4; Teresa Olander-Bloomfield, (402) 373-4914 ext 4 or Deb Yocum-Beatrice, (402) 223-3125 ext 4 for specific information and application assistance.

Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm> or

<http://www.fpc.unl.edu/Newsworthy/grant.htm> for template to assist in compiling an application.

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